



Newsletter

12th January 2024 | Issue 55



Dear Families,

Happy New Year! On behalf of us all here at St John's we wish everyone associated with our school a happy and healthy 2024.



We have now completed our first full week of the new term and it has been great to welcome our students back. This term is unusually short with two halves of five weeks.

For our students in Year 11 and 13 this means that their final exams are fast approaching with GCSE option subjects now having less than 40 lessons left. Next week students in Year 11 and 13 will receive the grades they achieved in their December Mock Examinations, which will help to inform them as to what needs to be done over the remaining fourteen school weeks that remain before the first exam begins.

As well as welcoming our students back to school, on Tuesday we held our first Year 7 Parent Afternoon. This is the first of several to take place over this half term with Year 10 and 12 up next and Year 11 and 13 to follow shortly after. Elsewhere, lessons continue with purpose with colleagues and myself having opportunity to get into many lessons as part of our ongoing quality assurance process, which subsequently informs our approach to further improving our educational offer and quality of teaching and learning.

Upcoming School Events

Next Week

Week 2

All Week **BTEC Final Exams (Year 12 and 13)**

Tuesday 16th January **Year 11 and 13 Mock Exam Results Published @ 1300hrs**

Wednesday 17th January **Duke of Edinburgh Practice Walk**

Thursday 18th January **Year 8 Environmental Visit (All day)**

Head Teacher's Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive

Friday 19th January **Year 8 Environmental Visit (All day)**

U18 Volleyball Tournament (Away) @ 1400hrs

Week Commencing 22nd January

Week 1

Tuesday 23rd January **Year 10 and 12 Parent Afternoon : 1430—1700hrs**

Thursday 25th January **SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 hrs**

Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschools.org

Week Commencing 29th January

Week 2

All Week **Head Teacher visit to Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment**

Start of LGBTQ+ History Month

Wednesday 31st January **Intermediate Maths National Challenge, Years, 9, 10, 11**

Thursday 1st February **Deputy Head Teacher's Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive**



INTEGRITY • COMMITMENT • RESPECT

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This week at St John's School in pictures



Congratulations to the recipients of last terms
Certificates of Achievement.

The certificates were awarded to students in
each year group for their demonstration of our
whole school values of:

Integrity, Commitment and Respect



Thank you to
@LiveWell with Lexi
who joined us on Wednesday to
put Year 9, 10 and 11 through
their paces in PE with a morning
of circuit training.



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Year 10 and 12 Parents' Afternoon

Tuesday 23rd January 1430—1700 hrs



We look forward to welcoming parents of our Year 10 and 12 students into school for their first parent afternoon of this academic year. The afternoon will give you an opportunity, along with your child, to meet their teachers in a series of 1:1 meetings. During each meeting you will be able to find out how your child is progressing across each area of their curriculum.

Appointments must be made in advance of the Parent Afternoon. Appointments can only be made through our new Parent Portal, EPraise. The appointment book will open on Monday 15th January at midday.

Please ensure you have registered to use EPraise, either via the website or App in advance of Monday 15th January. Instructions on how to do so can be on the final pages of this newsletter.

Once registered, to make your appointments, please visit the Community Tab after Midday on Monday 15th January and select Parents' Evening. You can then follow the prompts to make appointments for your child's teachers.

Having difficulties?

Should you encounter difficulties please email Mr Barber who will gladly support you in logging in for the first time and/or making an appointment. Mr Barber's email is Dave.Barber@modschools.org



www.facebook.com/stjohnsschoolcyprus

Let's be friends!

Be sure to add us as a friend of Facebook to keep up to date with what is happening at St John's School



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Tik Tok Choking Challenge

It has come to our attention that over the Christmas Holidays a number of students in Key Stage 3 participated in the Choking Challenge, which has been promoted by users of Tik Tok. In recent years the Choking Challenge, sometimes referred to as the Blackout Challenge or Choking Game has attracted media attention due to the obvious dangers and devastating outcomes associated with such an act. In participating in the Choking Challenge one person squeezes the neck of another with their hands or a bent arm.

As a school we have proactively responded by alerting students to the dangers of such behaviour through a Key Stage 3 assembly which took place on Thursday 11th January. As a school we will continue to be vigilant in raising student awareness of the risks, in looking for the signs of participation and listening to our students who have been proactive in alerting us to this type of behaviour and activity.

As parents we are keen to make you aware so that you too can be vigilant to student interest in the Choking Challenge and what they are viewing online. Although limited research has been conducted some of the signs to look for include:

- Blood shot eyes
- Headaches
- Bruises on the neck
- Disorientation after spending time alone and/or with peers

Other names for this act include:

- American Dream
- Knockout game
- Choke out
- Flatliner
- Space cowboy

It is suggested that the motivation amongst young people seems to be such reasons as thrill seeking or feeling it is a low risk activity. Peer pressure may play a part, together with curiosity.

Together we will continue to be vigilant and should you have any questions or concerns please do contact the school.



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Our Curriculum

Over the past year we have collectively reviewed and revised our curricula for each and every subject. Some subjects are further ahead than others and the processes around curriculum development will be ongoing with frequent revisions and updates. You can find the latest curricula for each and every subject on our website. Upon opening the link you will be able to see what your child will be studying at any stage in their educational journey at St John's School and explore how you may help them at home.

www.stjohnsschoolcyprus.com/curriculum

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English & Drama



Year 7-13 Curriculum rationale

Curriculum intent: "A word after a word after a word is power." Margaret Atwood

The English Curriculum at St John's aims to help students see their power and place in the world and explore, empathise and question the experience of themselves and others through the study of a diverse range of challenging heritage and modern texts. Through this study, we will foster and develop a curiosity around language which can be applied to a range of creative and academic contexts, resulting in empowered readers, writers and orators who can contribute positively to the local, national and international communities of which they are a part.

[Year 7-13 Curriculum rationale 2023](#)

[Sixth Form](#)[Options](#)[Curriculum Intent](#)[PSHE](#)[Psychology](#)[Art](#)[Business Studies](#)[Computer Science](#)[Food Technology](#)[Design & Technology Product Design](#)[English & Drama](#)[Geography](#)[History](#)[Modern Foreign Languages](#)[Mathematics](#)[Music](#)[Religious Education](#)[Physical Education](#)[Science](#)



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Headteacher's Surgery - Akrotiri Hive

On Thursday 18th January 0900–1000hrs, parents and/or members of the BFC community are welcome to drop into the Akrotiri Hive, without appointment, to meet the Headteacher, Colin Guyton, to discuss any ideas or issues concerning St John's School.

This approach draws similarities from the MP Local Constituency Surgeries you maybe familiar with in the UK and it is hoped that it will prove a useful opportunity to share ideas that help improve the provision we provide to the young people in our care.

Leavers - Year 7 to 12

Sadly this academic year will see a significant number of students leave St John's School. We are aware that a number of you are starting to receiving details of your next posting and that many members of our Regiment will be returning to the UK through a staggered approach starting in early Spring.

If you know you will be leaving us before the new academic year, please can you inform the School Office as soon as possible. This will help us ensure that your child has a smooth transition to their new school and all the information required is prepared and ready to send across to them. This also includes children in Year 11. If you are unsure of exact dates, or currently do not have a school confirmed, please still complete the form as these details can be added at a later time.

If you have any queries regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Parkinson on 00357 2596 3888 or alternatively you can email at Kate.Parkinson@modschools.org.



Senior Student Leadership Team

The creation and development of our Student Leadership Team has been a proud achievement. Proficiently led by our Head of School, Ciara, we have created a clear and effective structure, hosted a range of successful student led events and inspired younger students to participate in student leadership. Initially established in July 2023, our Student Leaders have recommended that to ensure the sustainability in leadership we should look to appoint their successors now, so they can be in place between January to December. This recommendation will facilitate a effective handover, whilst allowing our current senior team to relinquish their roles and responsibilities ahead of their upcoming final exams. Acting upon this recommendation, I look forward to recruiting our new Senior Student Leaders in the coming weeks. All other student leadership positions remain unaffected.



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Key Stage 3 Valentine School Disco

Key Stage 3 students are being offered the opportunity to attend a Valentine's School Disco on 9th February 2024 between 1800 and 2000 hrs. The event will involve a disco, games and a tuck shop.

Students can be dropped at Episkopi Primary School car park but will need to be collected from the St John's School Hall at 2000 hrs promptly unless permission has been given through the QR code below for them to make their own way home.

The Disco will cost 2 Euro for attendance and will take place in the St John's School Hall. Students can bring money to buy snacks and drinks from the tuck shop and to take part in games.

In order to confirm attendance parents must complete the permission form via the QR code below prior to the event. This form will close on the 8th February 2024.



Red Nose Day | Comic Relief

On Friday 15th March St John's School will be celebrating Red Nose Day and we will be raising money for people who are living in poverty.

On Friday 15th March we would like students to come to school wearing something red and invite them to donate 1 euro in support of Comic Relief.

Alongside this KS3 will be running a talent contest Period 5 on the 15th March and all Key Stage 3 students will be able to attend this with a further 1 euro donation. Drinks/ snacks will also be provided during this lesson for students at a small price so please provide them with pocket money on the day.

We hope we can raise as much money as possible for this fantastic cause. If you would like further information on Red Nose Day please follow the website link below or contact Mrs. Gardiner on the email address provided.

[Red Nose Day | Comic Relief](#)





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Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

Every month we will publish a link like that below which will provide a variety of careers information advice and guidance . The information published will try to cater for students in all years, although inevitably it will have a leaning towards students in Key Stages 4 and 5.

<https://sway.office.com/bsBTZJbQQf7IGydp?ref=Link>

Career Corner



Film Director

Job of the week

Film directors are responsible for the production of a film or TV show from start to finish. It involves needing a creative vision and working with lots of different people throughout the process.

Qualifications/ Experience needed:

There are no specific qualifications needed to become a film director. However, you need to convince all sorts of people that you are someone worth supporting, therefore developing your skills and contacts in the industry will be important.

You could take a course at university or college to get into the industry including:

- Film or television production
- Broadcast production
- Drama
- Film making

It's important to check individual entry requirements at universities and colleges.

Top Tips

Many directors start out as runners, on film or TV sets, and work their way up through other jobs like 3rd and 2nd assistant director. Others move into directing after getting experience in camera work, screenwriting or acting.

Get as much experience of amateur film making as you can to build a portfolio.

Volunteering can be a great way to get further experience.

Skills you need will include:

- creative flair
- initiative and problem-solving ability
- excellent communication
- be thorough and pay attention to detail
- motivational and leadership skills
- the ability to work under pressure
- Knowledge of media production and communication

Labour Market Information:

Average salary (a year)	Typical hours (a week)
£ Variable	39 to 41 Irregular

In 2019, over half (54%) of people working in film and video production were self-employed compared with 18% of the total UK workforce. (ERIC)

For more information visit:

[Screen Skills](#)

[Shooting People](#)

[The Knowledge](#)



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EPrise Parent Communication Website and App

To centralise and improve our communication, whilst facilitating you as a parent to see how well your child is getting on at school, we are going to use EPrise. We have had access to EPrise for some time and our students will be familiar with it as a reward system. However, we have invested in a wider range of functionality and we invite parents to register for an online account.

Logging In

You will initially need to register by downloading the EPrise App or by visiting their website via:

- [www.eprise.co.uk/index.php?
school=stjohnscyprus&login=parents](http://www.eprise.co.uk/index.php?school=stjohnscyprus&login=parents)
1. Select the parent tab on the EPrise log in form
 2. Click the register button.
 3. Enter the email address previously provided to St John's School and request the login code
 4. EPrise will send an email to the registered email account. This email contains a code, which you must then use as the password to login for the first time.

Note:

The password link remains active for 24 hours so you will need to create the password within that time or repeat the steps above to obtain a new email. Sometimes emails can take a few minutes to arrive or are automatically redirected to the junk folder so it is worth checking before re-registering your account.

Trouble Registering?

Should you encounter difficulties it is possible the email address we have for you is out of date. To update your email address or to notify us of difficulties please email Mr Barber who will gladly assist you in logging on. Mr Barber's email is Dave.Barber@MODSchools.org



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EPraise Website Tabs

At the top of the webpage or app, there are a variety of tabs which link to the information details below:

Me > Settings

Here you can change your password, which we recommend to avoid obtaining a registration code each time you log on. Through the settings tab you can also set your notification preferences.



Me > Messages

Messages will eventually allow you to send and receive messages from your child's/children's teacher. At present it is our intention to use this facility to push out notifications to you as a parent. For example letters and the weekly newsletter will come through EPraise Messages.

My Children > Profile

You can view your child/children's profiles under the my Children Tab. Here you can see their school attendance, reward point tally and timetable. Further functionality will be launched in due course.

My Children > Planner

Here you will be able to view all of your child's/children's homework and notes set by their teachers. You will have the option to see any attachments included and can see which are set, due, overdue or completed.

Community > Get Involved

Here you will see various enrichment activities available to your child/children and where you can sign them up. They even earn points indicated by the activities with praise points in the corner.

Community > Parents' Evening

You will soon be able to see allocated parents' afternoon events displayed here. When a parents' afternoon approaches, you will be able to book appointments to see their teacher. To do this simply select the 'book appointment' button and fill in the details.